

37. (Amended) Apparatus for mixing a fluid medium with a solids-liquid suspension, comprising:
- a mixer casing defining an interior space and having an inlet for introduction of a mass flow of material which includes the solids-liquid suspension into said interior space, and an outlet for discharging a mixture of the fluid medium and solids-liquid suspension from said interior space;
  - a conduit for feeding the fluid medium into contact with the solids-liquid suspension; and
  - a mixing rotor freely rotatably mounted in said casing for free rotation about an axis of rotation, said axis of rotation being transverse to an axis of flow leading from said inlet to said outlet; wherein said mixing rotor including a center, a shaft mounted on bearings in said casing, and blades, said blades leaving said rotor center open and being positioned for contact with the fluid medium and solids liquid suspension introduced into the mixer casing to thereby responsively cause the mixing rotor to rotate and mix the fluid medium with the solids liquid suspension.
38. (Amended) Apparatus for mixing a fluid medium with a solids-liquid suspension, comprising:
- a mixer casing defining a flow axis, an inlet for introducing a mass flow of material which includes the solids-liquid suspension into said mixer casing, and an outlet for discharging a mixture of the fluid medium and solids-liquid suspension from the mixer casing;
  - a conduit for feeding the fluid medium into contact with the solids-liquid suspension; and
  - a mixing rotor freely rotatably mounted in said mixer casing for free rotation about an axis of rotation which is transverse to the flow axis of said mixer casing, wherein

said mixing rotor including a center, a shaft mounted on bearings in said casing, and blades, said blades leaving said rotor center open and being positioned for contact with the fluid medium and solids liquid suspension introduced into the mixer casing to thereby responsively cause the mixing rotor to rotate and mix the fluid medium with the solids liquid suspension.

39. (Amended) Apparatus for mixing a fluid medium with a solids-liquid suspension, comprising:

- (B)
- a mixer casing defining an interior space and having an inlet for introduction of a mass flow of material which includes the solids-liquid suspension into said interior space, and an outlet for discharging a mixture of the fluid medium and solids-liquid suspension from said interior space;
  - a conduit for feeding the fluid medium into contact with the solids-liquid suspension;
  - a mixing rotor freely rotatably mounted in said mixer casing for free rotation about an axis of rotation, said axis of rotation being transverse to an axis of flow leading from said inlet to said outlet;
  - said mixing rotor includes a center, a shaft mounted on bearings in said casing, and blades, said blades being positioned so as to establish an open center space of the mixing rotor, and being contacted with the fluid medium and solids liquid suspension introduced into the mixer casing to thereby responsively cause the mixing rotor to rotate and mix the fluid medium with the solids liquid suspension

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.